

97-84026-11

Dodds, Elliott

After four years

[London]

[1918]

97-84026-11  
MASTER NEGATIVE #

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
PRESERVATION DIVISION

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

ORIGINAL MATERIAL AS FILMED - EXISTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

308  
Z  
Box 61 Dodds, Elliott, 1889-  
After four years: the transformation of the  
motherland ... London, Clay, 1918,  
23 p. illus. 24 cm.  
  
Supplement to United empire, August, 1918.

001 60

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Reproductions may not be made without permission from Columbia University Libraries.

TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35 mm

REDUCTION RATIO: 1/2.1

IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA ☒ IIA IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 2-25-97

INITIALS: RB

TRACKING #: MSH 21453

FILMED BY PRESERVATION RESOURCES, BETHLEHEM, PA.

INTENTIONAL  
SECOND  
EXPOSURES DUE TO  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Cat  
Box

Supplement to "UNITED EMPIRE," August 1918.

# AFTER FOUR YEARS

The Transformation  
of the  
Motherland

by  
ELLIOTT DODDS, B.A.

308

Z

Box 61

APR 15 1930

## AFTER FOUR YEARS

*The* TRANSFORMATION  
of the  
MOTHERLAND

FOUR years have passed since Britain went to war. They have been tragic years, in which the blood of our best has been poured out like water, and the accumulated treasures of a century of progress have been scattered to the heedless winds. They have been great years, illumined by the splendour of gallant deeds, the unrecorded heroism of common men and women, the endurance and tenacity of a federation of peace-loving peoples. Marred by mistakes, chequered by failure and half-success, they have yet given us the earnest of final victory and the assurance that, if we possess our souls in faith, the sacrifice will not be in vain. They have been momentous years in the history of the Empire, establishing its loyalties, calling forth its possibilities, knitting its members together in an indissoluble commonwealth of corporate endeavour.

It is not the object of these pages to summarise the efforts and achievements of the Empire as a whole. Their purpose is at once more single and more modest. It is, in as small a compass as possible, to give a picture of the Motherland at war, to illustrate the revolution which has taken place in her social and industrial life, to show how she has grappled with the greatest emergency with which she has ever been confronted, and to emphasise the part which she herself—as apart from her daughter nations and dependencies—has played in the stupendous drama upon which the curtain has yet to fall.

Not for the first time, the Old Country has confounded her critics. Conservative in her traditions, cautious by instinct, suspicious of new methods and ways of thought, she has yet shown an adaptability, a readiness of resource, and a genius for rapid and comprehensive improvisation, which her foes, at all

events, did not expect from her. Bidden to dedicate both her manhood and her womanhood to the one supreme cause, compelled, by the stern demands of the time, to surrender many of her most cherished liberties, she has met every call with serene and untroubled composure, and in giving, has only asked that she might give more. "I see her not dispirited, not weak, but well remembering that she has seen dark days before; indeed, with a kind of instinct that she sees better in a cloudy day, and that in storm of battle and calamity she has a secret vigour and a pulse like a cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young, and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion. Seeing this, I say, All Hail! Mother of nations, mother of heroes, with strength still equal to the time." The words were written by Emerson more than half a century ago, but they might well have been spoken of the Britain of to-day.

#### THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION OF THE MOTHERLAND.

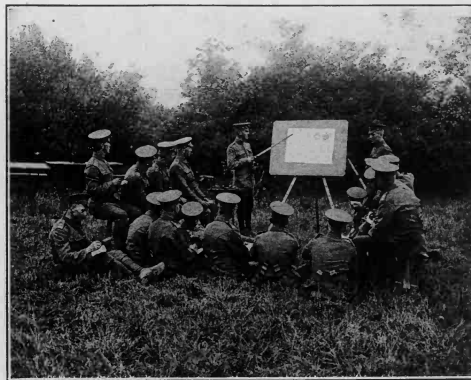


THE PROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EMPIRE TO THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE WESTERN FRONT: (1) GREAT BRITAIN, (2) CANADA, (3) AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, (4) INDIA, (5) SOUTH AFRICA.

The example is typical. Our enemies have assiduously spread the slander that Britain was leaving her Allies and her

The Old Country is not a good hand at advertising herself, and it is significant that when Mr. Lloyd George appointed the first Minister of Information to supervise the work of British propaganda abroad, he chose a Canadian for the post. For more than two years, the War Office refused to allow the correspondents at the front to name specifically the British regiments which had taken part in the fighting. Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans were repeatedly mentioned, but the people of the Motherland were allowed to learn only from the casualty-lists that their sons had been in action.

The example is typical. Our enemies have assiduously spread the slander that Britain was leaving her Allies and her



BRITISH RECRUITS IN TRAINING: INSTRUCTION IN THE USE OF THE HELIOGRAPH.

sons from overseas to bear the brunt of the struggle, and, if the libel has unfortunately gained some currency, the Old Country has her taciturn and stubborn pride to blame. For the facts themselves are indisputable. Out of 7,500,000 men provided by the Empire up to the end of last year, "for the armed forces of the Crown," 4,530,000 (or 60.4 per cent.) had been contributed by England, 620,000 (or 8.3 per cent.) by Scotland, and 280,000 (or 3.7 per cent.) by Wales. The total number contributed by Great Britain therefore amounted to 5,430,000. It is impossible to give the figures of casualties, but it may at least be said that proportionately they were as high as those among any of the contingents from overseas.

It need hardly be emphasised that the vast majority of these men were volunteers. Immediately war broke out, Lord Kitchener asked for 100,000 men. They were raised in less than a fortnight, and fresh calls were met almost before they had been made. From railway and coalmine; from office, factory and warehouse; from the slumbering cloisters of the ancient universities; from the scattered hamlets that lay quiet among the peaceful hills, recruits continued to pour in. The enlist-

events, did not expect from her. Bidden to dedicate both her manhood and her womanhood to the one supreme cause, compelled, by the stern demands of the time, to surrender many of her most cherished liberties, she has met every call with serene and untroubled composure, and in giving, has only asked that she might give more. "I see her not dispirited, not weak, but well remembering that she has seen dark days before; indeed, with a kind of instinct that she sees better in a cloudy day, and that in storm of battle and calamity she has a secret vigour and a pulse like a cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young, and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion. Seeing this, I say, All Hail! Mother of nations, mother of heroes, with strength still equal to the time." The words were written by Emerson more than half a century ago, but they might well have been spoken of the Britain of to-day.

#### THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION OF THE MOTHERLAND.

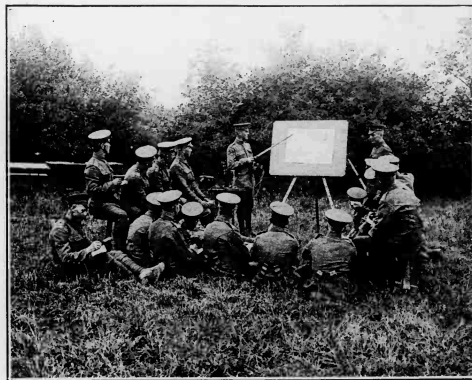


THE PROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EMPIRE TO THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE WESTERN FRONT: (1) GREAT BRITAIN, (2) CANADA, (3) AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, (4) INDIA, (5) SOUTH AFRICA.

The example is typical. Our enemies have assiduously spread the slander that Britain was leaving her Allies and her

The Old Country is not a good hand at advertising herself, and it is significant that when Mr. Lloyd George appointed the first Minister of Information to supervise the work of British propaganda abroad, he chose a Canadian for the post. For more than two years, the War Office refused to allow the correspondents at the front to name specifically the British regiments which had taken part in the fighting. Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans were repeatedly mentioned, but the people of the Motherland were allowed to learn only from the casualty-lists that their sons had been in action.

The example is typical. Our enemies have assiduously spread the slander that Britain was leaving her Allies and her



BRITISH RECRUITS IN TRAINING: INSTRUCTION IN THE USE OF THE HELIOGRAPH.

sons from overseas to bear the brunt of the struggle, and, if the libel has unfortunately gained some currency, the Old Country has her taciturn and stubborn pride to blame. For the facts themselves are indisputable. Out of 7,500,000 men provided by the Empire up to the end of last year, "for the armed forces of the Crown," 4,530,000 (or 60.4 per cent.) had been contributed by England, 620,000 (or 8.3 per cent.) by Scotland, and 280,000 (or 3.7 per cent.) by Wales. The total number contributed by Great Britain therefore amounted to 5,430,000. It is impossible to give the figures of casualties, but it may at least be said that proportionately they were as high as those among any of the contingents from overseas.

It need hardly be emphasised that the vast majority of these men were volunteers. Immediately war broke out, Lord Kitchener asked for 100,000 men. They were raised in less than a fortnight, and fresh calls were met almost before they had been made. From railway and coalmine; from office, factory and warehouse; from the slumbering cloisters of the ancient universities; from the scattered hamlets that lay quiet among the peaceful hills, recruits continued to pour in. The enlist-



SOME OF THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND: A TYPICAL SCENE IN LONDON IN THE EARLY WEEKS OF THE WAR.

ments of a single day outstripped the enrolment of a year in time of peace, and when the news came through of the retreat from Mons, 175,000 men offered themselves in a week. In the first year of the war, the Mother Country raised more than 2,000,000 volunteer soldiers. By the end of 1915, five million, forty-one thousand of her sons had been enrolled in the Army and Navy—surely such a spontaneous rally of free men as the world had never seen before.

#### THE BREAK WITH TRADITION.

When, therefore, compulsory military service was introduced early in 1916, it was not so much in order to obtain, there and then, large numbers of new recruits, for the great proportion of men of military age had either enlisted voluntarily, or were exempted as being engaged upon work of national importance. Conscription was adopted primarily as the basis for the full mobilisation of the man-power of the nation and to provide, as the months passed, a steady and regular flow of reinforcements for the army in the field. A secondary reason was undoubtedly to be found in the wish of the Government to assure those who



TURNING CIVILIANS INTO SOLDIERS: RECRUITS, WITH THEIR KIT, READY TO LEAVE FOR THE TRAINING CAMP.

had already offered themselves that those who had lagged behind should not profit by their patriotism.

Compulsion came in typically British fashion. The voluntary principle was deeply ingrained in the British temperament, and before the war neither of the great political parties had ventured to inscribe National Service (even for home defence) upon its banners. Had conscription been adopted in the early months of the war, it would undoubtedly have created a serious cleavage in the country and provoked bitter resentment and perhaps resistance. As it was, however, the approach was so gradual that even those who had most strenuously opposed compulsory service in the past were now found among its most fervent advocates. The great Labour organisations, it is true, still remained hostile and, by large majorities, passed resolutions denouncing the proposed change. But once the first Military Service Act had been passed through Parliament—with only a handful of dissentients—Labour loyally accepted the decision and co-operated with the Government to the best of its ability in seeing that the new machine worked smoothly and without friction.

The adoption of conscription by the Motherland was indeed one of the most remarkable proofs of the single-minded devotion





SOME OF THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND: A TYPICAL SCENE IN LONDON IN THE EARLY WEEKS OF THE WAR.

ments of a single day outstripped the enrolment of a year in time of peace, and when the news came through of the retreat from Mons, 175,000 men offered themselves in a week. In the first year of the war, the Mother Country raised more than 2,000,000 volunteer soldiers. By the end of 1915, five million, forty-one thousand of her sons had been enrolled in the Army and Navy—surely such a spontaneous rally of free men as the world had never seen before.

#### THE BREAK WITH TRADITION.

When, therefore, compulsory military service was introduced early in 1916, it was not so much in order to obtain, there and then, large numbers of new recruits, for the great proportion of men of military age had either enlisted voluntarily, or were exempted as being engaged upon work of national importance. Conscription was adopted primarily as the basis for the full mobilisation of the man-power of the nation and to provide, as the months passed, a steady and regular flow of reinforcements for the army in the field. A secondary reason was undoubtedly to be found in the wish of the Government to assure those who

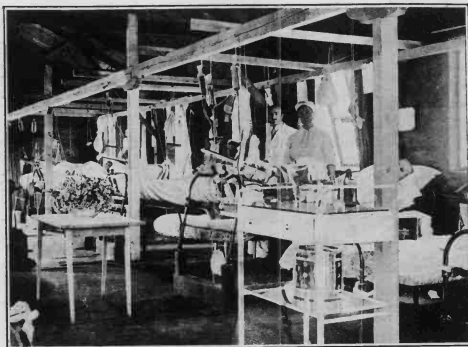


TURNING CIVILIANS INTO SOLDIERS: RECRUITS, WITH THEIR KIT, READY TO LEAVE FOR THE TRAINING CAMP.

had already offered themselves that those who had lagged behind should not profit by their patriotism.

Compulsion came in typically British fashion. The voluntary principle was deeply ingrained in the British temperament, and before the war neither of the great political parties had ventured to inscribe National Service (even for home defence) upon its banners. Had conscription been adopted in the early months of the war, it would undoubtedly have created a serious cleavage in the country and provoked bitter resentment and perhaps resistance. As it was, however, the approach was so gradual that even those who had most strenuously opposed compulsory service in the past were now found among its most fervent advocates. The great Labour organisations, it is true, still remained hostile and, by large majorities, passed resolutions denouncing the proposed change. But once the first Military Service Act had been passed through Parliament—with only a handful of dissentients—Labour loyally accepted the decision and co-operated with the Government to the best of its ability in seeing that the new machine worked smoothly and without friction.

The adoption of conscription by the Motherland was indeed one of the most remarkable proofs of the single-minded devotion

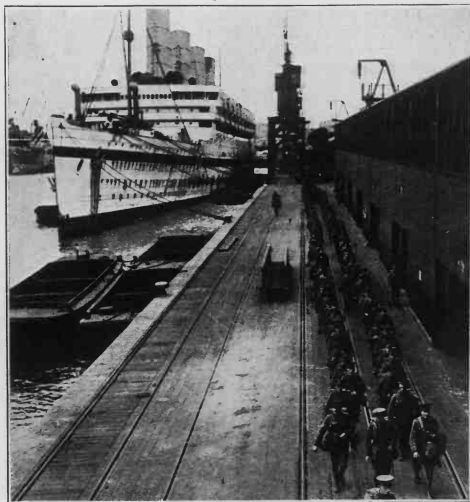


THE BRITISH MEDICAL SERVICE: THE INTERIOR OF A WARD IN A BASE-HOSPITAL IN FRANCE.

of all classes and parties to the national interest. There was no referendum. Not even a bye-election was fought upon the issue. The break with tradition was complete, but it was accepted, almost without a murmur, as part of the necessary price of victory. At first the principle was applied only to unmarried men; then it was extended to the married. In April of this year a further Act was passed, raising the age-limit to fifty-one, and this was passed too by an overwhelming majority, and was accepted without any considerable protest by the great mass of the public.

#### SUBSTITUTION AND DILUTION.

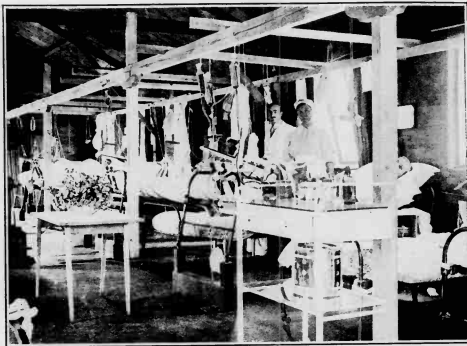
While the adoption of compulsory military service involved the abandonment of principles and convictions which had previously been regarded as an integral part of British policy, the widespread system of substitution and dilution, which was the inevitable consequence of the prolonged drain upon the national reserves of man-power, amounted to a revolution in the industrial and Labour world. The Trade Unions had fought long and hard for the right of the skilled workman to maintain



OFF TO FRANCE: RECRUITS MARCHING DOWN THE QUAY, ON THEIR WAY TO EMBARK.

his craft as a sort of close corporation, and now they were asked to surrender privileges which had been gained only after weary years of effort. In order to obtain more men for service with the colours, the Government proposed to "dilute" the skilled workers with unskilled workmen (of low medical categories) and women. The proposal was at first hotly criticised. But Labour, once fully convinced of the need, accepted the situation, and, with an admirable sense of public duty, surrendered its cherished privileges.

As a result, the Government was enabled to "comb out" of even essential industries large numbers of men who would otherwise not have been available. A special Ministry was created to co-ordinate the demands of the various Departments and to

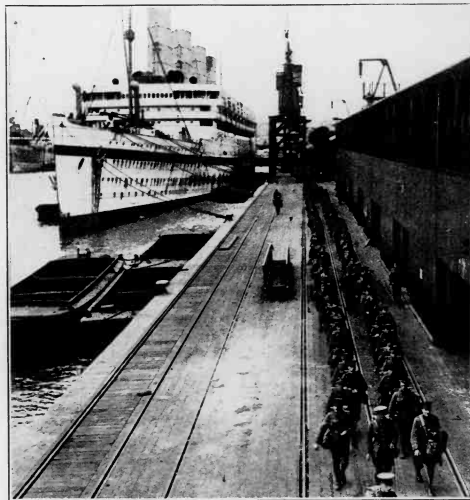


THE BRITISH MEDICAL SERVICE: THE INTERIOR OF A WARD IN A BASE-HOSPITAL IN FRANCE.

of all classes and parties to the national interest. There was no referendum. Not even a bye-election was fought upon the issue. The break with tradition was complete, but it was accepted, almost without a murmur, as part of the necessary price of victory. At first the principle was applied only to unmarried men; then it was extended to the married. In April of this year a further Act was passed, raising the age-limit to fifty-one, and this was passed too by an overwhelming majority, and was accepted without any considerable protest by the great mass of the public.

#### SUBSTITUTION AND DILUTION.

While the adoption of compulsory military service involved the abandonment of principles and convictions which had previously been regarded as an integral part of British policy, the widespread system of substitution and dilution, which was the inevitable consequence of the prolonged drain upon the national reserves of man-power, amounted to a revolution in the industrial and Labour world. The Trade Unions had fought long and hard for the right of the skilled workman to maintain



OFF TO FRANCE: RECRUITS MARCHING DOWN THE QUAY, ON THEIR WAY TO EMBARK.

his craft as a sort of close corporation, and now they were asked to surrender privileges which had been gained only after weary years of effort. In order to obtain more men for service with the colours, the Government proposed to "dilute" the skilled workers with unskilled workmen (of low medical categories) and women. The proposal was at first hotly criticised. But Labour, once fully convinced of the need, accepted the situation, and, with an admirable sense of public duty, surrendered its cherished privileges.

As a result, the Government was enabled to "comb out" of even essential industries large numbers of men who would otherwise not have been available. A special Ministry was created to co-ordinate the demands of the various Departments and to

organise the man-power of the nation upon the most economical basis. As the irreducible minimum essential to efficiency was more nearly approached, the task became increasingly delicate, but during the course of last year no less than 320,646 men were taken for service with the colours.

#### THE PRICE OF WAR.

It is not easy to visualise the effect of this immense revolution upon the national life. Some six million men have been withdrawn from civil life in the Old Country during the past four years. The lengthening casualty lists—now, alas, so normal a part of existence that the newspapers hardly trouble to print them—tell their own tragic story. Hardly a home in the Motherland that has not been overshadowed by the angel of death. Hardly a man, a woman or a child who is not personally and intimately concerned in the ebb and flow of battle. Nor is this all. The ever-increasing demands of the Army have dislocated many a business and shut up many a shop. Old men, who had looked forward to spending their last years in a quiet retirement, have been compelled to take once more upon their shoulders the burden of responsibility. Women and girls, who in other times would have been building up the home-life of the future, are leading lives of prolonged and exacting exertion in shipyards, coal-mines, railways, and munition factories. When the price of war which the Motherland is paying be reckoned up, there must not be forgotten the grave though less obvious sacrifices which the provision of nearly six million soldiers entails.

#### THE NAVAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE MOTHERLAND.

That Britain should maintain her Army at a strength of five million was a portent undreamed of either by friend or foe, but her rôle as guardian of the seas was traditional. In symbolic personification the Motherland has for generations held the trident in her grasp, and her children have accepted it as a law of nature that she should "rule the waves." How, then, has she sustained this historic rôle during the past four years? Her daughter-nations, inheriting her sea-going instincts, have played no mean part in the naval struggle. It was the young Australian Fleet that swept the Germans from the Pacific and brought the "Emden" to heel off Cocoa Island. Newfoundland's naval force has rendered admirable service, first in the Dardanelles

and later in patrolling the Mediterranean and the North Sea. The other Dominions have contributed in men and ships to the Imperial Navy. But it is upon the old and well-tried British Fleet that the main burden of the day has fallen. Its *personnel* has been increased from 145,000 to 450,000, and its tonnage from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000. Since the outbreak of war the original Fleet has been supplemented by new units representing a force larger than the entire Navy which Germany possessed in 1914. During last year alone the British Navy transported 7,000,000 men, 500,000 animals, 200,000 vehicles, and 9,500,000 tons of stores to the various fronts.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BRITISH SEA-POWER.

Only once has the British Navy had the opportunity of meeting the German High Seas Fleet in action, and its triumph on that occasion was so complete that the Kaiser sealed up Wilhelmshaven, lest his subjects should look too closely on his "victorious" ships, and the Navy, upon which he had lavished some £300,000,000 of the German taxpayers' money, has not since ventured out of its harbours. But through all these years there has been in operation "that compulsion whose silence, when once noted, becomes to the observer the most striking and awful mark of the working of sea-power." Germany's overseas trade, which in the first six months of 1914 amounted to £235,450,000, has been swept from the oceans; the raiders, with which she hoped to harry the Allies' commerce, have been rounded up one by one; month by month the blockade has been drawn tighter, so that to-day her civil population is facing the prospect of something approaching starvation; and she has been compelled to watch the surrender of one of her colonies after another, without being able to send a man or a gun to their assistance.

British sea-power is, indeed, the fundamental fact of the war, the essential foundation upon which the military structure of the whole Alliance has been built. Were that foundation to be destroyed, all hopes of a victorious peace would go with it, and Germany would be left the unchallengeable mistress of the world. Every man, every shell, every gun, every aeroplane employed in the field is there because the British Navy holds the seas. British soldiers are fighting in France and Flanders, in Italy, Mesopotamia and Palestine, because their sea-communications are secure. Britain's Allies have the ability to equip and sustain their military forces and their civil populations, because



BRITISH BATTLESHIPS STEAMING OUT TO SEA.

the British Navy stands behind them. America has been enabled to pour her vast supplies into the common stock, and more than a million of her sons have now made their way to Europe, because the British Navy has won its silent victory.

#### FIGHTING THE U-BOAT.

Perhaps the most significant success of the British Navy has been the decisive defeat which it has inflicted upon the U-boat. When the "unrestricted" submarine war was declared, in February, 1917, the German Chancellor stated that "the blockade must succeed within a limited number of weeks, within which America cannot effectively participate in the operations." Field-Marshal von Hindenburg (according to the statement made in a pan-German brochure which has been widely distributed among the German troops) assured his fellow-countrymen that the U-boat would bring Britain to her knees within six months. The sinkings recorded during February, March, and April, 1917, although they failed to justify these optimistic anticipations, undoubtedly gave ground for grave disquiet, and if the same rate had been maintained, the life-line of the Allies would have been seriously imperilled.

Happily, however, the Old Country is at its best when it is up against an unexpected emergency, and every device which ingenuity could contrive, both offensive and defensive, was put into operation. The results were not at once apparent, but they were ultimately sure. In many cases scientific research, extending over many months, was necessary before action could be taken. In other instances, the devices adopted involved extensive work in the shipyards and workshops. Even if it were possible, it would be undesirable to mention many of the measures which have been taken to cope with the menace. The arming of merchant ships; the widespread extension of the



NAVAL RECRUITS IN TRAINING: PHYSICAL EXERCISE.

convoy system; the expansion of the auxiliary patrol services (the number of vessels thus employed amounted to 3,400 at the end of 1917, as against less than 20 in 1914), are only the more obvious of innumerable methods which have been adopted.

In the result, the sinkings of British merchant ships have been reduced by more than two-thirds during the last twelve months, and, concurrently, the U-boats are now being destroyed more rapidly than they can be replaced. Mr. Lloyd George has declared that while the submarine may remain "a nuisance," it is no longer "a peril," and the greatest threat which the Allied cause has yet had to face has been effectively met by the resource, the ingenuity, and the dauntless courage of British seamen.

#### THE SHIP-BUILDING PROBLEM.

Intimately connected with the anti-submarine work of the Navy has been the problem of merchant ship construction. In July, 1914, our mercantile tonnage, amounting to nearly 4,000 steamships of 17,000,000 tons gross, sufficed for all the needs of our Empire and provided in addition a huge reserve. Immediately war was declared, however, the demands upon our carrying capacity became exacting to a degree undreamed of before, and as it was prolonged and extended the strain became intense. Not only were hundreds of merchants vessels required for transporting men and material for the use of our own Armies, but our Allies looked to us to assist them in supplying their military forces and their civil populations. At the same time, the number of vessels available was slowly diminishing, and



BRITISH BATTLESHIPS STEAMING OUT TO SEA.

the British Navy stands behind them. America has been enabled to pour her vast supplies into the common stock, and more than a million of her sons have now made their way to Europe, because the British Navy has won its silent victory.

#### FIGHTING THE U-BOAT.

Perhaps the most significant success of the British Navy has been the decisive defeat which it has inflicted upon the U-boat. When the "unrestricted" submarine war was declared, in February, 1917, the German Chancellor stated that "the blockade must succeed within a limited number of weeks, within which America cannot effectively participate in the operations." Field-Marshal von Hindenburg (according to the statement made in a pan-German brochure which has been widely distributed among the German troops) assured his fellow-countrymen that the U-boat would bring Britain to her knees within six months. The sinkings recorded during February, March, and April, 1917, although they failed to justify these optimistic anticipations, undoubtedly gave ground for grave disquiet, and if the same rate had been maintained, the life-line of the Allies would have been seriously imperilled.

Happily, however, the Old Country is at its best when it is up against an unexpected emergency, and every device which ingenuity could contrive, both offensive and defensive, was put into operation. The results were not at once apparent, but they were ultimately sure. In many cases scientific research, extending over many months, was necessary before action could be taken. In other instances, the devices adopted involved extensive work in the shipyards and workshops. Even if it were possible, it would be undesirable to mention many of the measures which have been taken to cope with the menace. The arming of merchant ships; the widespread extension of the



NAVAL RECRUITS IN TRAINING: PHYSICAL EXERCISE.

convoy system; the expansion of the auxiliary patrol services (the number of vessels thus employed amounted to 3,400 at the end of 1917, as against less than 20 in 1914), are only the more obvious of innumerable methods which have been adopted.

In the result, the sinkings of British merchant ships have been reduced by more than two-thirds during the last twelve months, and, concurrently, the U-boats are now being destroyed more rapidly than they can be replaced. Mr. Lloyd George has declared that while the submarine may remain "a nuisance," it is no longer "a peril," and the greatest threat which the Allied cause has yet had to face has been effectively met by the resource, the ingenuity, and the dauntless courage of British seamen.

#### THE SHIP-BUILDING PROBLEM.

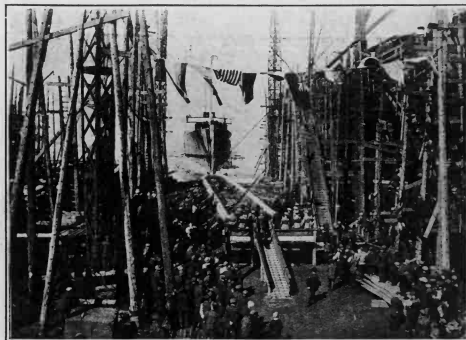
Intimately connected with the anti-submarine work of the Navy has been the problem of merchant ship construction. In July, 1914, our mercantile tonnage, amounting to nearly 4,000 steamships of 17,000,000 tons gross, sufficed for all the needs of our Empire and provided in addition a huge reserve. Immediately war was declared, however, the demands upon our carrying capacity became exacting to a degree undreamed of before, and as it was prolonged and extended the strain became intense. Not only were hundreds of merchants vessels required for transporting men and material for the use of our own Armies, but our Allies looked to us to assist them in supplying their military forces and their civil populations. At the same time, the number of vessels available was slowly diminishing, and

losses from enemy warships, mines, and submarines were only partially compensated for by captured vessels, purchases, and new construction. In such circumstances the "unrestricted" U-boat campaign was declared.

While it is true that the destruction of the submarines themselves was the only sure means of finally averting the menace, it was essential that merchant shipbuilding should be so speeded up that new construction should at least balance losses. During the early months of 1917, when the sinkings were at their highest, this was by no means the case, and energetic measures were necessary if the situation was not to become gravely threatening. In December, 1916, merchant-shipbuilding had been placed under the direction of the newly-created Shipping Controller, and in May, 1917, the responsibility was transferred to a new Department under Sir Eric Geddes, with the title of Controller of the Navy. Early this year a special Controller of Merchant-shipbuilding was appointed, in the person of Lord Pirrie, a partner in one of the greatest shipbuilding firms. The results of this increasing specialisation soon became apparent. During the year 1917, 1,163,000 gross tons of merchant shipping were launched from British yards, as compared with 542,000 tons in the previous year, and 1,919,000 tons during the last year of peace. The tonnage of British merchant ships completed in the quarter ending June 30th this year, shows an increase of 78 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding three months of 1917. The world's output of merchant shipping now exceeds the losses due to all causes, and so far as the shipyards are concerned, the submarine has been beaten.

#### FOOD PRODUCTION.

One of the primary objects of the "ruthless" submarine campaign was to cut off the Old Country from her overseas food supplies, and thus to starve her into surrender. Before the war the United Kingdom produced less than 40 per cent. of the cereals required to feed her population, and, by the end of 1916, two years of bad harvests, coinciding with a decline in the area under corn crops and the growing scarcity of tonnage, had created a dangerous crisis. Vigorous steps were promptly taken to render the Motherland as far as possible self-supporting and to release tonnage normally employed in conveying her food supplies for other purposes. The Corn Production Act guaranteed to the farmer such prices for wheat and oats as would encourage him to convert pasture into arable land, and at the same



HOW BRITISH SHIPYARDS ARE FIGHTING THE U-BOAT: THE LAUNCH OF A STANDARD VESSEL.

time secured a minimum wage to the agricultural labourer and gave the Government wide powers of control. The Ministry of National Service undertook to see that the demands for labour were adequately met, without impairing the man-power requisite for the Army, and powers were taken to increase the supply of horses and agricultural machinery and to provide the necessary quantities of seed and fertilisers. A remunerative minimum price was meanwhile fixed for potatoes. As a result of these various measures, more than a million acres were added to the area under corn and potatoes during 1917, while the supply of home-grown cereals was more than 850,000 tons greater than the previous year and the potato crop showed an increase of 3,000,000 tons. By the middle of February this year, some 1,200,000 fresh acres had been brought under the plough, in addition to the fresh acreage recorded in 1917. The area under wheat is now one and a half times what it was before the war, and further substantial additions to the home-grown food supply have resulted from the widespread cultivation of allotments.

#### THE RATIONING OF THE PEOPLE.

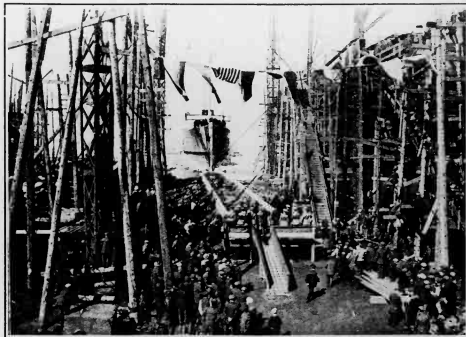
"Except for a gradual and sustained upward movement of the prices of most of the articles of common consumption,"

losses from enemy warships, mines, and submarines were only partially compensated for by captured vessels, purchases, and new construction. In such circumstances the "unrestricted" U-boat campaign was declared.

While it is true that the destruction of the submarines themselves was the only sure means of finally averting the menace, it was essential that merchant shipbuilding should be so speeded up that new construction should at least balance losses. During the early months of 1917, when the sinkings were at their highest, this was by no means the case, and energetic measures were necessary if the situation was not to become gravely threatening. In December, 1916, merchant-shipbuilding had been placed under the direction of the newly-created Shipping Controller, and in May, 1917, the responsibility was transferred to a new Department under Sir Eric Geddes, with the title of Controller of the Navy. Early this year a special Controller of Merchant-shipbuilding was appointed, in the person of Lord Pirrie, a partner in one of the greatest shipbuilding firms. The results of this increasing specialisation soon became apparent. During the year 1917, 1,163,000 gross tons of merchant shipping were launched from British yards, as compared with 542,000 tons in the previous year, and 1,919,000 tons during the last year of peace. The tonnage of British merchant ships completed in the quarter ending June 30th this year, shows an increase of 78 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding three months of 1917. The world's output of merchant shipping now exceeds the losses due to all causes, and so far as the shipyards are concerned, the submarine has been beaten.

#### FOOD PRODUCTION.

One of the primary objects of the "ruthless" submarine campaign was to cut off the Old Country from her overseas food supplies, and thus to starve her into surrender. Before the war the United Kingdom produced less than 40 per cent. of the cereals required to feed her population, and, by the end of 1916, two years of bad harvests, coinciding with a decline in the area under corn crops and the growing scarcity of tonnage, had created a dangerous crisis. Vigorous steps were promptly taken to render the Motherland as far as possible self-supporting and to release tonnage normally employed in conveying her food supplies for other purposes. The Corn Production Act guaranteed to the farmer such prices for wheat and oats as would encourage him to convert pasture into arable land, and at the same



HOW BRITISH SHIPYARDS ARE FIGHTING THE U-BOAT: THE LAUNCH OF A STANDARD VESSEL.

time secured a minimum wage to the agricultural labourer and gave the Government wide powers of control. The Ministry of National Service undertook to see that the demands for labour were adequately met, without impairing the man-power requisite for the Army, and powers were taken to increase the supply of horses and agricultural machinery and to provide the necessary quantities of seed and fertilisers. A remunerative minimum price was meanwhile fixed for potatoes. As a result of these various measures, more than a million acres were added to the area under corn and potatoes during 1917, while the supply of home-grown cereals was more than 850,000 tons greater than the previous year and the potato crop showed an increase of 3,000,000 tons. By the middle of February this year, some 1,200,000 fresh acres had been brought under the plough, in addition to the fresh acreage recorded in 1917. The area under wheat is now one and a half times what it was before the war, and further substantial additions to the home-grown food supply have resulted from the widespread cultivation of allotments.

#### THE RATIONING OF THE PEOPLE.

"Except for a gradual and sustained upward movement of the prices of most of the articles of common consumption,"



Article	NATIONS IN ALLY	ARMY IN FRANCE	W.A.C.	NAVY (AT FLOT)	NAVY (ASHORE)	W.R.N.S.	MARINES (SERVING AT HOME)	PRISONERS OF WAR (Maximum allowance)	OFFICERS OF WAR (Maximum allowance)
MEAT	10 oz. (1 lb. 10 oz.)	16 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
BACON	10 oz. (1 lb. 10 oz.)	16 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
FISH (FRESH)	10 oz. (1 lb. 10 oz.)	16 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	14 oz. (1 lb. 2 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	10 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
FISH (DRIED)	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
BREAD	8 oz. (1 lb. 4 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
SUGAR	8 oz. (1 lb. 4 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
TEA	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
MARGARINE	8 oz. (1 lb. 4 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
BUTTER	8 oz. (1 lb. 4 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)	12 oz. (1 lb. 0 oz.)
JAM	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
RICE	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
PULSES	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
OATMEAL	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
POTATOES	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed
VEGETABLES	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed	Not rationed

BRITAIN ON RATIONS: THE SCALE ILLUSTRATED IN DIAGRAMS.  
(Blank spaces indicate that no specified ration has been fixed.)

declares one of the contributors to "The Times History of the War," "there was no food problem in the country until the nations had entered on the third year of war." Substantially the statement is correct. In the first terrible days of August, 1914, men and women at home were full of unnameable fears. They had been taught to expect that, depending as they did for the larger proportion of their food-supply upon overseas sources, war on the great scale would confront them with the imminent peril of shortage, and even of starvation. The British Navy, however, accomplished its task with such complete success that these fears were soon dissipated, and the public settled down to the comfortable belief that it could "carry on" in the matter of food consumption much as it had done in the years of peace.

A world shortage, however, due to diminished harvests and decreased production, and occurring simultaneously with the intensification of the submarine campaign vitally altered the situation and made some system of food rationing essential. The approach was tentative, and at first the compulsory principle was adopted in regard to sugar only. Subsequently it was extended to meat, butter, margarine and tea. The ration for sugar was fixed at 8 ozs. and that for butter and margarine at 4 ozs. a week; the meat ration, reckoned on a value basis, amounts to the equivalent of 20 ozs. of butcher's meat.

The comparison with the compulsory rations which obtain in Germany and Austria will show how infinitely better off are the British people than their enemies. There is, indeed, no shortage in the Old Country and the rationing system has worked with extraordinary smoothness. Much of its success has undoubtedly been due to the organising capacity of the Food Controller, the late Lord Rhondda; much of it has also been due to the loyal co-operation of the local authorities, the retailers, and the great labour organisations. But the successful working of a system so alien to British traditions could never have been achieved had not the people of the Motherland—the common men and women who, in their totality, make up the commonwealth—accepted willingly and without complaint such a restriction of their normal liberty.

#### THE MIRACLE OF MUNITIONS.

Nowhere have the past four years created more revolutionary changes in the life of the Motherland than in the industrial sphere. British industry, to-day, is indeed one vast machine,

Article	RATIONED CIVILIANS	ARMY IN FRANCE	W.A.A.C.	NAVY (AFLOAT)	NAVY (ASHORE)	W.R.N.S.	MARINES (Serving at home)	PRISONERS OF WAR (British employed at home)	OFFICERS OF WAR (Prisoners at home)
MEAT	10 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
BACON	10 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
FISH (FRESH)	10 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
FISH (Dried or salted)	10 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
BREAD	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
SUGAR	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
MARGARINE	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
SUET	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
CHEESE	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
EGGS	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
RICE	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
PULSES	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
OATMEAL	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
POTATOES	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed
FRESH VEGETABLES	8 oz. Not rationed	11 oz. Not rationed	4 oz. Not rationed	16 oz. Not rationed	8 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	3 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed	2 oz. Not rationed

MILITARY RATIONS: THE SCALE ILLUSTRATED IN DIAGRAMS.  
(Blank spaces indicate that no specified ration has been fixed.)

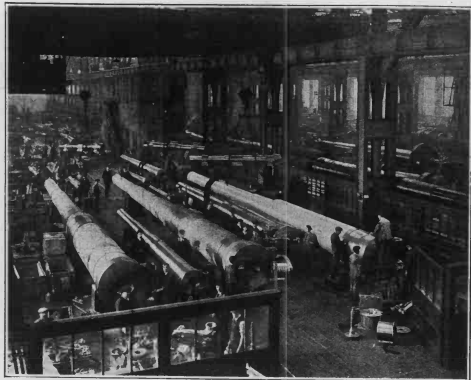
declares one of the contributors to "The Times History of the War," "there was no food problem in the country until the nations had entered on the third year of war." Substantially the statement is correct. In the first terrible days of August, 1914, men and women at home were full of unnameable fears. They had been taught to expect that, depending as they did for the larger proportion of their food-supply upon overseas sources, war on the great scale would confront them with the imminent peril of shortage, and even of starvation. The British Navy, however, accomplished its task with such complete success that these fears were soon dissipated, and the public settled down to the comfortable belief that it could "carry on" in the matter of food consumption much as it had done in the years of peace.

A world shortage, however, due to diminished harvests and decreased production, and occurring simultaneously with the intensification of the submarine campaign vitally altered the situation and made some system of food rationing essential. The approach was tentative, and at first the compulsory principle was adopted in regard to sugar only. Subsequently it was extended to meat, butter, margarine and tea. The ration for sugar was fixed at 8 ozs. and that for butter and margarine at 4 ozs. a week; the meat ration, reckoned on a value basis, amounts to the equivalent of 20 ozs. of butcher's meat.

The comparison with the compulsory rations which obtain in Germany and Austria will show how infinitely better off are the British people than their enemies. There is, indeed, no shortage in the Old Country and the rationing system has worked with extraordinary smoothness. Much of its success has undoubtedly been due to the organising capacity of the Food Controller, the late Lord Rhonda; much of it has also been due to the loyal co-operation of the local authorities, the retailers, and the great labour organisations. But the successful working of a system so alien to British traditions could never have been achieved had not the people of the Motherland—the common men and women who, in their totality, make up the commonwealth—accepted willingly and without complaint such a restriction of their normal liberty.

#### THE MIRACLE OF MUNITIONS.

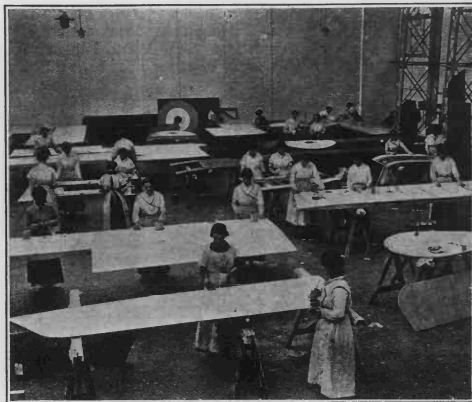
Nowhere have the past four years created more revolutionary changes in the life of the Motherland than in the industrial sphere. British industry, to-day, is indeed one vast machine,



THE WAR OF THE WORKSHOP: MONSTER GUNS IN A BRITISH FACTORY.

working night and day to maintain and supply the armies in the field. The private employer is regulated and controlled at every point by Government. Capital is no longer free to flow in what channels it wills. The workman has surrendered privileges which he regarded as the sheet-anchor of his freedom. The national need is paramount, and all other claims have been subordinated to its demands.

When the war broke out the Old Country possessed only three national arsenals and a few private armament firms working for the Government. To-day she has more than two hundred national factories, some five thousand "controlled firms" working directly under the Ministry of Munitions, and five thousand more firms engaged on miscellaneous munition contracts. The country has been divided up into districts, in each of which a working board of management has been set up, and by means of this scheme of local organisation innumerable firms have been brought in which had never seen a shell body, a grenade, a fuse or a bomb before. In one area alone shell bodies or the components of shells are now being made by a music manufacturer, an infants' food maker, a candle maker, a

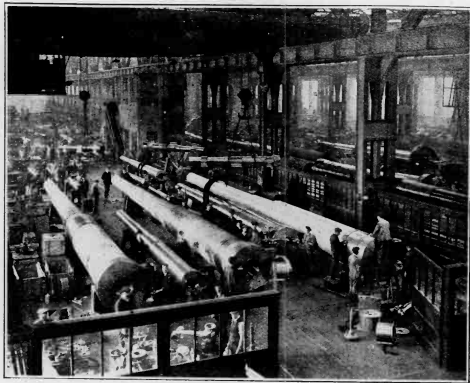


WHERE AGILE FINGERS ARE NEEDED: WOMEN AT WORK IN A BRITISH AEROPLANE FACTORY.

flour miller, a tobacco merchant, an advertising agent, several brewers, a jobmaster, a glazier, and a syphon manufacturer.

The increase in output has been so remarkable as almost to seem miraculous. Taking 100 as the figure for the first quarter of 1915, when the Ministry of Munitions was created, we get the following figures for the output of ammunition during the second quarter of the present year: Field-gun ammunition 1,493; medium gun ammunition 1,073; medium howitzer and anti-aircraft ammunition 3,053; heavy gun ammunition 16,387; heavy howitzer ammunition 16,942; very heavy howitzer ammunition 27,825. The output of medium howitzers has been elevenfold, and of very heavy howitzers more than tenfold. For every Lewis machine-gun turned out in the last quarter of 1914, 2,360 were turned out in the second quarter of 1918. For aeroplanes and seaplanes the ratio is 6,320 to 100.

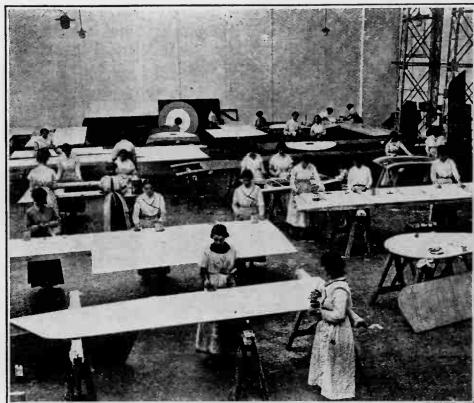
Statistics in themselves mean little, but the revolution in industry of which these figures are the visible expression is one



THE WAR OF THE WORKSHOP: MONSTER GUNS IN A BRITISH FACTORY.

working night and day to maintain and supply the armies in the field. The private employer is regulated and controlled at every point by Government. Capital is no longer free to flow in what channels it wills. The workman has surrendered privileges which he regarded as the sheet-anchor of his freedom. The national need is paramount, and all other claims have been subordinated to its demands.

When the war broke out the Old Country possessed only three national arsenals and a few private armament firms working for the Government. To-day she has more than two hundred national factories, some five thousand "controlled firms" working directly under the Ministry of Munitions, and five thousand more firms engaged on miscellaneous munition contracts. The country has been divided up into districts, in each of which a working board of management has been set up, and by means of this scheme of local organisation innumerable firms have been brought in which had never seen a shell body, a grenade, a fuse or a bomb before. In one area alone shell bodies or the components of shells are now being made by a music manufacturer, an infants' food maker, a candle maker, a



WHERE AGILE FINGERS ARE NEEDED: WOMEN AT WORK IN A BRITISH AEROPLANE FACTORY.

flour miller, a tobacco merchant, an advertising agent, several brewers, a jobmaster, a glazier, and a syphon manufacturer.

The increase in output has been so remarkable as almost to seem miraculous. Taking 100 as the figure for the first quarter of 1915, when the Ministry of Munitions was created, we get the following figures for the output of ammunition during the second quarter of the present year: Field-gun ammunition 1,493; medium gun ammunition 1,073; medium howitzer and anti-aircraft ammunition 3,053; heavy gun ammunition 16,387; heavy howitzer ammunition 16,942; very heavy howitzer ammunition 27,825. The output of medium howitzers has been elevenfold, and of very heavy howitzers more than tenfold. For every Lewis machine-gun turned out in the last quarter of 1914, 2,360 were turned out in the second quarter of 1918. For aeroplanes and seaplanes the ratio is 6,320 to 100.

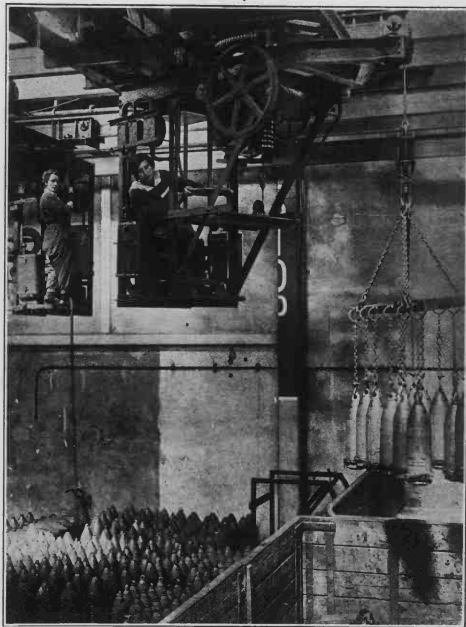
Statistics in themselves mean little, but the revolution in industry of which these figures are the visible expression is one

of the most remarkable in history. The whole of Britain is at war—not merely her fighting forces, but her munition factories, her shipyards, her coalmines, her railways, and her research laboratories. Her workshops have been mobilised, and they will know no truce till victory is secure.

#### THE WOMAN'S PART.

Of the vast army which is ceaselessly engaged upon the production of the munitions of war some thirty-four per cent. are women. Women are handling the deadly T.N.T. and the still more deadly fulminate of mercury; building guns, gun carriages and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -ton army lorries; working electric over-head travelling cranes for moving the enormous boilers of the men of war; erecting electric and power cables; loading and wheeling bricks; breaking lime-stone; excavating railway-cuttings; and turning and finishing test-pieces in various metals to half a thousandth of an inch. Of the innumerable munition processes upon which they are now engaged some two-thirds had never been performed by a woman before the war. No work is too delicate, and hardly any work too heavy for them to undertake. Considerably more than a million women are now engaged directly in war industries in Great Britain, and their numbers are continually increasing.

But it is not in the munition-shops alone that the women of the Old Country are playing their part and releasing their men-folk for service with the colours. Post-women, women motor-drivers and railway-porters, women police, lift attendants and commissionaires, women bakers and farm workers—these, with their sisters in a hundred other occupations, are a normal part of the life of the Motherland in war-time. By March of this year some 20,000 recruits had been enlisted for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, of whom 6,500 were serving in France, 500 were waiting to be drafted overseas, and the remainder were working at home. Parallel with the "W.A.A.C." are the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Royal Air Force, while the heroic work carried on by the women who are working as nurses and orderlies for the Red Cross at home and abroad is too well known to require any further emphasis. The womanhood of the Old Country has responded to the call no less nobly than its manhood, and has offered its all on the altar of a common service.



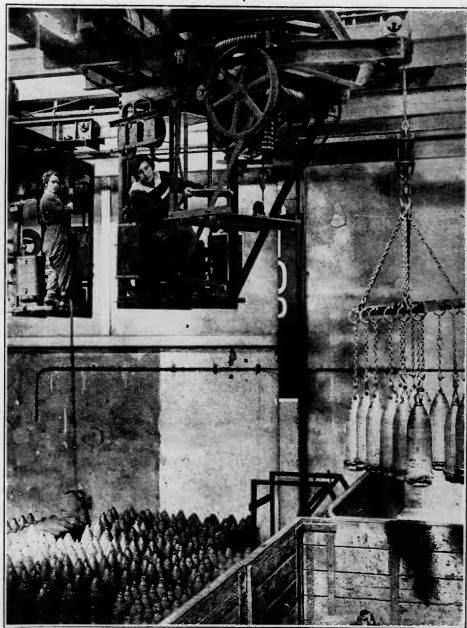
WOMEN OPERATING ONE OF THE OVERHEAD ELECTRIC TRAVELLING CRANES IN A BRITISH SHELL-FILLING FACTORY, THE STORE-ROOM OF WHICH ALONE COVERS NINE AND A-HALF ACRES.

of the most remarkable in history. The whole of Britain is at war—not merely her fighting forces, but her munition factories, her shipyards, her coalmines, her railways, and her research laboratories. Her workshops have been mobilised, and they will know no truce till victory is secure.

#### THE WOMAN'S PART.

Of the vast army which is ceaselessly engaged upon the production of the munitions of war some thirty-four per cent. are women. Women are handling the deadly T.N.T. and the still more deadly fulminate of mercury; building guns, gun carriages and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -ton army lorries; working electric overhead travelling cranes for moving the enormous boilers of the men of war; erecting electric and power cables; loading and wheeling bricks; breaking lime-stone; excavating railway-cuttings; and turning and finishing test-pieces in various metals to half a thousandth of an inch. Of the innumerable munition processes upon which they are now engaged some two-thirds had never been performed by a woman before the war. No work is too delicate, and hardly any work too heavy for them to undertake. Considerably more than a million women are now engaged directly in war industries in Great Britain, and their numbers are continually increasing.

But it is not in the munition-shops alone that the women of the Old Country are playing their part and releasing their men-folk for service with the colours. Post-women, women motor-drivers and railway-porters, women police, lift attendants and commissionaires, women bakers and farm workers—these, with their sisters in a hundred other occupations, are a normal part of the life of the Motherland in war-time. By March of this year some 20,000 recruits had been enlisted for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, of whom 6,500 were serving in France, 500 were waiting to be drafted overseas, and the remainder were working at home. Parallel with the "W.A.A.C." are the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Royal Air Force, while the heroic work carried on by the women who are working as nurses and orderlies for the Red Cross at home and abroad is too well known to require any further emphasis. The womanhood of the Old Country has responded to the call no less nobly than its manhood, and has offered its all on the altar of a common service.



WOMEN OPERATING ONE OF THE OVERHEAD ELECTRIC TRAVELLING CRANES IN A BRITISH SHELL-FILLING FACTORY, THE STORE-ROOM OF WHICH ALONE COVERS NINE AND A-HALF ACRES.



WEARING THEIR RESPIRATORS: WOMEN BAGGING T.N.T. IN A BRITISH SHELL-FILLING FACTORY.

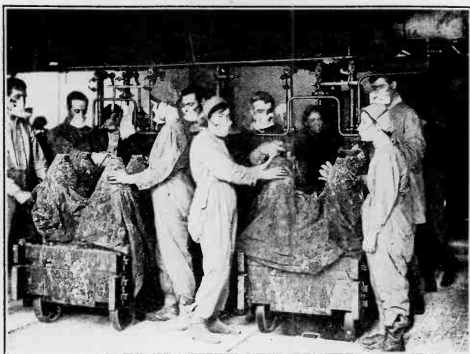
£6,986,000 A DAY.

The Motherland has not only raised an Army of nearly six millions which is now fighting on five fronts; borne the chief burden of the naval responsibilities of the Alliance; increased her output of munitions more than 30,000 per cent.; and mobilised her womanhood for war services. She has also been the financial bulwark of the Allies. In one day it is estimated that she is now spending £6,986,000<sup>1</sup>—a sum about as large as her expenditure in a fortnight in time of peace. By the end of the present financial year she will have advanced loans to her Allies amounting in the aggregate to £1,632,000,000. 'The British people are now paying £840,000,000 by way of taxation' as compared with about £200,000,000 before the war. Their national debt has increased from £651,000,000 to £7,980,000,000.<sup>1</sup> Although the prices of all commodities have increased to such an extent that the British housewife can now obtain for a sovereign less than half the amount of goods that she could purchase with the same sum before the war, the Old Country raised in thirty days a War Loan of £1,000,000,000—a sum amounting to about £21 per head of the population.

<sup>1</sup> Budget estimate for present financial year.

## CONCLUSION.

An attempt has now been made to illustrate a few aspects of the myriad-sided effort which the Old Country has put forth during the last four years. Volumes might be written, close-packed with statistics, and the story would still be incomplete. When we are asked, "What is the Motherland doing?" surely we may reply "What is the Motherland not doing?" Her social life has been transformed. Restrictions have been imposed upon the consumption of alcoholic liquor, petrol, artificial light in shops and theatres, railway travelling, race meetings, and football matches. She has herself seen the horrors of war at first-hand, for in the air-raids upon her towns and countryside more than 4,500 men, women, and children had been killed and wounded up to the end of June of this year. Her men have gone forth to fight, her women have taken upon themselves tasks which, four years ago, would have been considered entirely beyond their strength. She has, indeed, dedicated the whole of her national life to the one cause. Faced by the supreme test, she has not faltered, or hesitated, or been dismayed. She has reckoned up the cost, and counts it not too great for the prize of her high calling. And as one attempts to gain some glimpse of the magnitude of her efforts and her sacrifice, Milton's prophetic words seem to echo across the centuries. "Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks; methinks I see her as an Eagle, mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full noonday beam."



WEARING THEIR RESPIRATORS: WOMEN BAGGING T.N.T. IN A BRITISH SHELL-FILLING FACTORY.

£6,986,000 A DAY.

The Motherland has not only raised an Army of nearly six millions which is now fighting on five fronts; borne the chief burden of the naval responsibilities of the Alliance; increased her output of munitions more than 30,000 per cent.; and mobilised her womanhood for war services. She has also been the financial bulwark of the Allies. In one day it is estimated that she is now spending £6,986,000—a sum about as large as her expenditure in a fortnight in time of peace. By the end of the present financial year she will have advanced loans to her Allies amounting in the aggregate to £1,632,000,000. The British people are now paying £840,000,000 by way of taxation<sup>1</sup> as compared with about £200,000,000 before the war. Their national debt has increased from £651,000,000 to £7,980,000,000. Although the prices of all commodities have increased to such an extent that the British housewife can now obtain for a sovereign less than half the amount of goods that she could purchase with the same sum before the war, the Old Country raised in thirty days a War Loan of £1,000,000,000—a sum amounting to about £21 per head of the population.

<sup>1</sup> Budget estimate for present financial year.

## CONCLUSION.

An attempt has now been made to illustrate a few aspects of the myriad-sided effort which the Old Country has put forth during the last four years. Volumes might be written, close-packed with statistics, and the story would still be incomplete. When we are asked, "What is the Motherland doing?" surely we may reply "What is the Motherland not doing?" Her social life has been transformed. Restrictions have been imposed upon the consumption of alcoholic liquor, petrol, artificial light in shops and theatres, railway travelling, race meetings, and football matches. She has herself seen the horrors of war at first-hand, for in the air-raids upon her towns and countryside more than 4,500 men, women, and children had been killed and wounded up to the end of June of this year. Her men have gone forth to fight, her women have taken upon themselves tasks which, four years ago, would have been considered entirely beyond their strength. She has, indeed, dedicated the whole of her national life to the one cause. Faced by the supreme test, she has not faltered, or hesitated, or been dismayed. She has reckoned up the cost, and counts it not too great for the prize of her high calling. And as one attempts to gain some glimpse of the magnitude of her efforts and her sacrifice, Milton's prophetic words seem to echo across the centuries. "Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks; methinks I see her as an Eagle, mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full noonday beam."



PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY  
RICHARD CLAY AND SONS, LIMITED,  
BRUNSWICK STREET, STAMFORD STREET, S.E. 1,  
AND BUNGAY SUFFOLK.

MSH 21453

**END OF  
TITLE**